

III. Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-21 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 13, and 18 are independent.

The Drawings have been amended to overcome the objections thereto. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-21 were rejected as being unpatentable over Andersson, Soininen, Wallentin, Ohta, and Kokko, for the reasons noted at pages 2-14 of the Office Action. Applicants respectfully traverse all art rejections.

The amendments to each of the independent claims clarify that the claimed "shared channel" is a shared channel is not a common channel as discussed in the prior art. See, for example, the discussion at page 7 lines 13 - 24 of the subject application:

Shared channel 224 is a multiplexed channel in that several, or all, subscriber stations 32 in Figure 1 are capable of receiving data transmitted on it from base station 24 and shared channel 224 typically implements connectionless data transmissions to subscriber stations 32. One or more packets of data to be transmitted to a subscriber station 32 from base station 24 are assembled into a transmission frame, often along with packets addressed to other subscriber stations 32. These frames can be assembled at base station 24 from packets received

via back haul 28 and/or from packets received at base station 24 from other subscriber stations 32 or can be assembled elsewhere and forwarded to base station 24 via backhaul 28. Each assembled frame is transmitted from base station 24 via shared channel 224, over radio link 52, to subscriber stations 32 and each subscriber station 32 receives the transmitted frame and examines the packets therein to identify those, if any, which are addressed to it. Packets addressed to a subscriber station 32 are then processed accordingly by the addressed subscriber station 32. (*emphasis added*)

The Examiner seems to have assumed that "shared channel" means the same thing as "common channel" and is broad enough to include bidirectional channels which subscriber stations compete for the use of, while the claims of the subject application are limited to a downlink channel, in which there is no competition. The art cited seems to be disclosing bidirectional "common channels" in which collisions can occur. For example, see column 3, lines 26-32 of Andersson in which "users are trying to transmit on a common channel" and "congestion on the common channel" results. Note that in neither the subject specification nor the subject claims is the term "common channel" ever used.

By adding language limiting the meaning of "shared channel" in each of the independent claims, the

cited references should no longer be relevant as they disclose systems for switching between dedicated and common channels, not between dedicated and shared channels of the type we have disclosed.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 625-3500. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,


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Attachment

Annotated Sheets Showing Changes

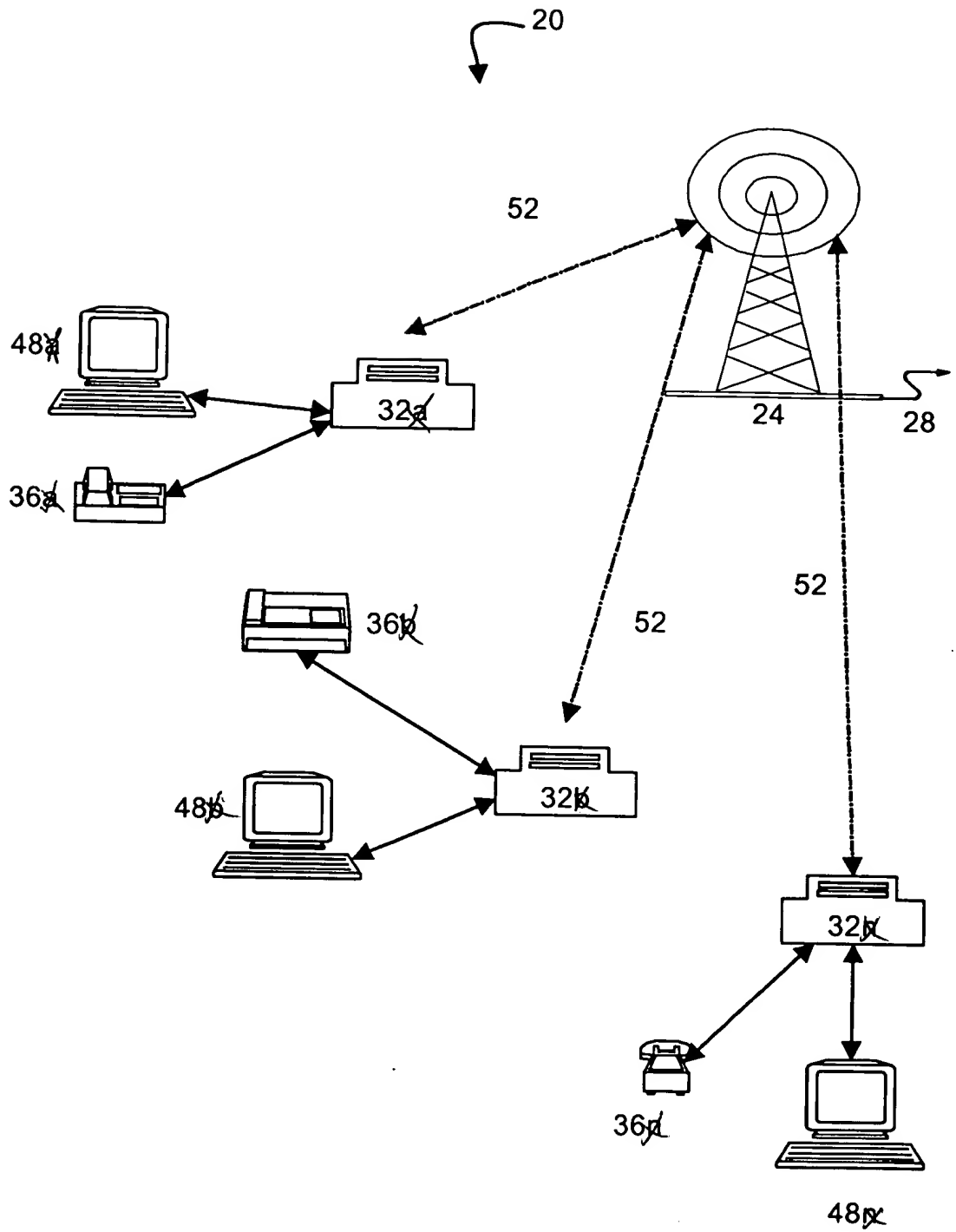
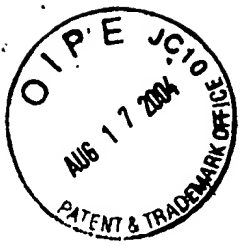


Fig. 1

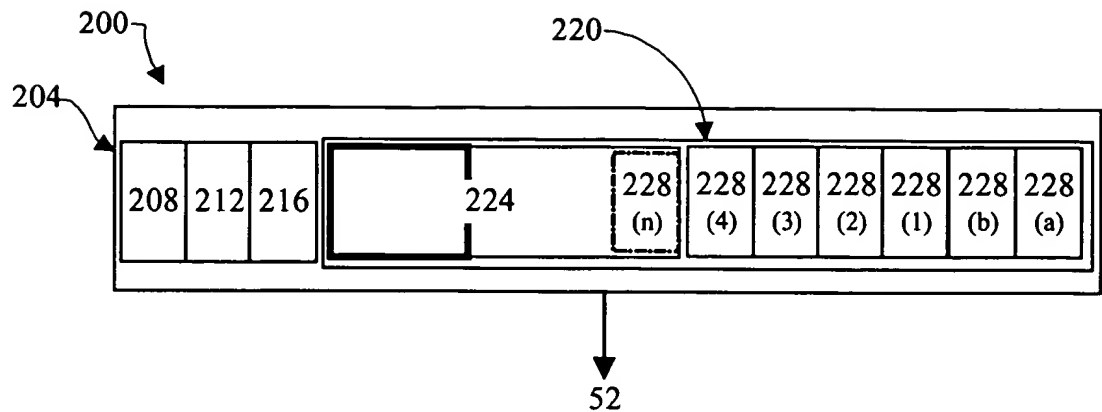


Fig. 5a

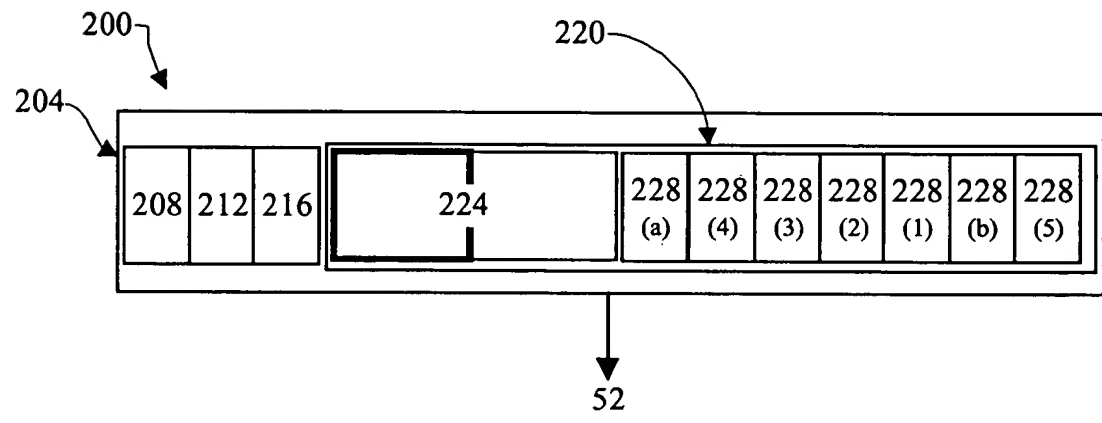


Fig. 5b

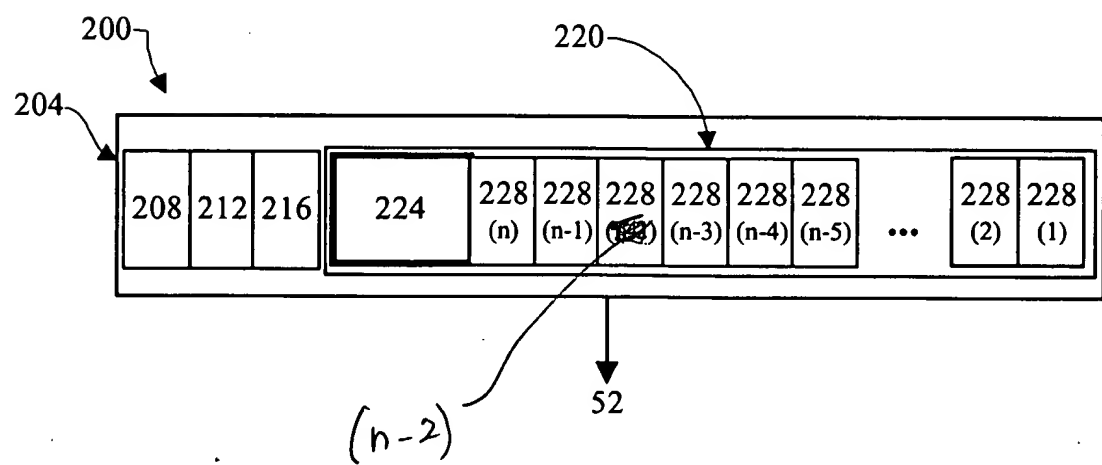


Fig. 5c